

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1176

To amend chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of rural health-care clinics, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 2, 1993

Mr. POMEROY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of rural health-care clinics, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. RURAL HEALTH-CARE CLINIC PROGRAM.**

4 (a) PROGRAM.—(1) Chapter 17 of title 38, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end of sub-
6 chapter II the following new section:

7 **“§ 1720E. Rural health-care clinics: pilot program**

8 “(a) During the three-year period beginning on Octo-
9 ber 1, 1993, the Secretary shall conduct a rural health-
10 care clinic program in States where significant numbers

1 of veterans reside in areas geographically remote from ex-
2 isting health-care facilities (as determined by the Sec-
3 retary). The Secretary shall conduct the program in ac-
4 cordance with this section.

5 “(b)(1) In carrying out the rural health-care clinic
6 program, the Secretary shall furnish medical services to
7 the veterans described in subsection (c) through use of—

8 “(A) mobile health-care clinics equipped, oper-
9 ated, and maintained by personnel of the Depart-
10 ment; and

11 “(B) other types of rural clinics, including part-
12 time stationary clinics for which the Secretary con-
13 tracts and part-time stationary clinics operated by
14 personnel of the Department.

15 “(2) The Secretary shall furnish services under the
16 rural health-care clinic program in areas—

17 “(A) that are more than 100 miles from a De-
18 partment general health-care facility; and

19 “(B) that are less than 100 miles from such a
20 facility, if the Secretary determines that the furnish-
21 ing of such services in such areas is appropriate.

22 “(c) A veteran eligible to receive medical services
23 through rural health-care clinics under the program is any
24 veteran eligible for medical services under section 1712 of
25 this title.

1 “(d) The Secretary shall commence operation of at
2 least three rural health-care clinics (at least one of which
3 shall be a mobile health-care clinic) in each fiscal year of
4 the program. The Secretary may not operate more than
5 one mobile health-care clinic under the authority of this
6 section in any State in any such fiscal year.

7 “(e) Not later than December 31, 1997, the Sec-
8 retary shall submit to Congress a report containing an
9 evaluation of the program. The report shall include the
10 following:

11 “(1) A description of the program, including in-
12 formation with respect to—

13 “(A) the number and type of rural health-
14 care clinics operated under the program;

15 “(B) the States in which such clinics were
16 operated;

17 “(C) the medical services furnished under
18 the program, including a detailed specification
19 of the cost of such services;

20 “(D) the veterans who were furnished serv-
21 ices under the program, setting forth (i) the
22 numbers and percentages of the veterans who
23 had service-connected disabilities, (ii) of the vet-
24 erans having such disabilities, the numbers and
25 percentages who were furnished care for such

1 disabilities, (iii) the ages of the veterans, (iv)
2 taking into account the veterans' past use of
3 Department health-care facilities, an analysis of
4 the extent to which the veterans would have re-
5 ceived medical services from the Department
6 outside the program and the types of services
7 they would have received, and (v) the financial
8 circumstances of the veterans; and

9 “(E) the types of personnel who furnished
10 services to veterans under the program, includ-
11 ing any difficulties in the recruitment or reten-
12 tion of such personnel.

13 “(2) An assessment by the Secretary of the
14 cost-effectiveness and efficiency of furnishing medi-
15 cal services to veterans through various types of
16 rural clinics (including mobile health-care clinics op-
17 erated under the pilot program conducted pursuant
18 to section 113 of the Veterans' Benefits and Services
19 Act of 1988 (Public Law 100–322; 38 U.S.C. 1712
20 note)).

21 “(3) Any plans for administrative action, and
22 any recommendations for legislation, that the Sec-
23 retary considers appropriate.

1 “(f) For the purposes of this section, the term ‘De-
2 partment general health-care facility’ has the meaning
3 given such term in section 1712A(i)(2) of this title.”.

4 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of such
5 chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating
6 to section 1720D the following new item:

“1720E. Rural health-care clinics: pilot program.”.

7 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—(1)
8 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Department
9 of Veterans Affairs to carry out the rural health-care clin-
10 ics program provided for in section 1720E of title 38,
11 United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), the fol-
12 lowing:

13 (A) For fiscal year 1994, \$3,000,000.

14 (B) For fiscal year 1995, \$6,000,000.

15 (C) For fiscal year 1996, \$9,000,000.

16 (2) Amounts appropriated pursuant to such author-
17 ization may not be used for any other purpose.

18 (3) No funds may be expended to carry out the rural
19 health-care clinics program provided for in such section
20 1720E (as so added) unless expressly provided for in an
21 appropriations Act.

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